



SWANSEA

Bristol County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Swansea is a suburban/rural community founded on the premise of religious tolerance for all. Unfortunately, the town also turned out to be the starting place of King Philip's war in 1675 and the site of the first bloodshed of the war. Before that war there were several historic Indian settlement sites and trails in the town. Colonial settlement began in 1663 and the town was named after a minister's home village in Wales. In 1664, King Philip had conveyed the land in the community to William Brenton of Newport and by the start of the Indian war, there were 70 people staying in the garrison fortified house in town and several occupied houses on the Neck. During the war, Indian attacks destroyed every house in town including the garrison.

After the war, forges, ironworks and fishing on the town's rivers made up a substantial part of the community's economy. The small villages that made up the community were the sites of stores, cotton mills, grist and yarn mills and fishing boats. When the bigger industrial cities such as Fall River, Taunton and Providence absorbed the town's industries, Swansea's large agricultural capacity remained important. In the 1890's, the street trolley connected Swansea to Fall River and Providence and suburban and summer homes were developed. A picnic grove called Shady Isles was established by the streetcar company and brought city people out to the country on day trips.

Now a suburban community with much of its agricultural land still open, Swansea also retains 16 impressive and significant examples of intact Colonial houses.

(Seal supplied by community. Narrative based on information provided by the Massachusetts Historical Commission)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Southeastern Massachusetts, bordered by Barrington and Warren, Rhode Island, on the west and southwest; the mouth of the Taunton River on the south; Somerset on the east; and Dighton, Rehoboth, and Seekonk on the north. Swansea is about 4 miles west of Fall River; 47 miles south of Boston; 12 miles southeast of Providence, Rhode Island; and about 190 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 25.54 sq. miles

Land Area: 23.07 sq. miles

Population: 15,411

Density: 668 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(New Bedford Station)

Normal temperature in January.....30.6°F

Normal temperature in July.....73.5°F

Normal annual precipitation.....47.3"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Somerset, Fall River, East Providence, Bristol

Regional Planning Agency

Southeastern Regional Planning and
Economic Development District

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Fall River



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (508) 678-2981

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen
Executive Secretary
Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1785

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	9,119		
Democrats	3,334	36.6	%
Republicans	842	9.2	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	4,943	54.2	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Swansea town, Bristol County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	15,901	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	15,901	100.0
Male.....	7,825	49.2	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	96	0.6
Female.....	8,076	50.8	Mexican.....	10	0.1
Under 5 years.....	750	4.7	Puerto Rican.....	26	0.2
5 to 9 years.....	920	5.8	Cuban.....	5	-
10 to 14 years.....	1,096	6.9	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	55	0.3
15 to 19 years.....	1,131	7.1	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	15,805	99.4
20 to 24 years.....	700	4.4	White alone.....	15,494	97.4
25 to 34 years.....	1,945	12.2	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	2,567	16.1	Total population.....	15,901	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	2,610	16.4	In households.....	15,697	98.7
55 to 59 years.....	992	6.2	Householder.....	5,888	37.0
60 to 64 years.....	691	4.3	Spouse.....	3,806	23.9
65 to 74 years.....	1,258	7.9	Child.....	4,773	30.0
75 to 84 years.....	960	6.0	Own child under 18 years.....	3,175	20.0
85 years and over.....	281	1.8	Other relatives.....	769	4.8
Median age (years).....	40.5	(X)	Under 18 years.....	258	1.6
18 years and over.....	12,371	77.8	Nonrelatives.....	462	2.9
Male.....	5,938	37.3	Unmarried partner.....	257	1.6
Female.....	6,433	40.5	In group quarters.....	204	1.3
21 years and over.....	11,839	74.5	Institutionalized population.....	154	1.0
62 years and over.....	2,893	18.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	50	0.3
65 years and over.....	2,499	15.7	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	1,019	6.4	Total households.....	5,888	100.0
Female.....	1,480	9.3	Family households (families).....	4,540	77.1
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	1,834	31.1
One race.....	15,742	99.0	Married-couple family.....	3,806	64.6
White.....	15,569	97.9	With own children under 18 years.....	1,499	25.5
Black or African American.....	60	0.4	Female householder, no husband present.....	519	8.8
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	12	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	236	4.0
Asian.....	57	0.4	Nonfamily households.....	1,348	22.9
Asian Indian.....	5	-	Householder living alone.....	1,155	19.6
Chinese.....	9	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	600	10.2
Filipino.....	11	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	2,013	34.2
Japanese.....	5	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	1,715	29.1
Korean.....	7	-	Average household size.....	2.67	(X)
Vietnamese.....	1	-	Average family size.....	3.06	(X)
Other Asian ¹	19	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	1	-	Total housing units.....	6,070	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	5,888	97.0
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	182	3.0
Samoa.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	1	-	occasional use.....	38	0.6
Some other race.....	43	0.3	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.5	(X)
Two or more races.....	159	1.0	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.1	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	5,888	100.0
White.....	15,715	98.8	Owner-occupied housing units.....	4,995	84.8
Black or African American.....	85	0.5	Renter-occupied housing units.....	893	15.2
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	48	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.77	(X)
Asian.....	96	0.6	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.06	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	13	0.1			
Some other race.....	105	0.7			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 72

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Swansea, which is situated in the New Bedford-Fall River Area, is served by the airport and port facilities of New Bedford. In addition, Interstate 195 and State Routes 24 and 140 provide access to the airports, ports, and intermodal facilities of Providence and Boston.

Major Highways

Principal highways are U.S. Route 6, Interstate 195, State Route 118 to Attleboro and State Route 138 to Taunton, which is easily accessible in neighboring Somerset.

Rail

No commuter rail or freight service is available in Swansea. Good commuter service between the neighboring city of Fall River and Boston and Logan Airport is provided by Bonanza Bus Company.

Bus

Swansea is a member of the Southeast Regional Transit Authority (SRTA), which provides fixed route service between Fall River and Swansea. SRTA and the Council on Aging also provide paratransit services for the elderly and disabled.

Other

Airport facilities are available at the municipal airports of Fall River and Providence, RI.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)

[The UMass Dartmouth Theatre Company](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Country Gardens Nursing Home

Gardner S Grove Nursing Home

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

Swansea Rest Home, Inc.

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.